

Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

July 27, 1999

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To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is concerning Docket NOS: 98N-1230; 96P-0418; 97P-0197. Since the US Food & Drug Administration (FDA) is requesting public comments on reducing egg-borne diseases because of the many illnesses and deaths caused by contaminated eggs, I am taking this opportunity to voice my opinions and concerns.

FDA must do more than put bacteria warning labels on egg cartons and regulate egg refrigeration temperatures. People who have been buying eggs for years and years are not going to pay any attention to these warning labels. Eggs have become an everyday part of their diet. It's a "no brainer" as they say. I know very few people who read the labels of anything. It is because the people of this country have put their trust in organizations like the FDA for their health. If they only knew how little the FDA is actually protecting their health, perhaps they would pay more attention.

FDA should prohibit the practice of forced molting because forced molting has been scientifically shown to promote disease by destroying the starving hens' immune systems. Although this society has a character flaw by not caring about the animals bred and raised for their food, I believe that if the public truly knew what happened on these "factory farms" they would be less likely to support them. Again, they are trusting the FDA and the USDA on their judgment of safety and cleanliness.

FDA has jurisdiction to ban farm practices, such as forced molting, that injure human health; I suggest that you use this power to help save lives and end the sickness that is devastating this society.

FDA must ban the forced molting of laying hens because forced molting is a primary cause of infectious diseases in hens, eggs, and consumers of eggs. Although the FDA seems to care very little about the first two since you allow billions of baby chicks to be thrown away every month, I would hope you at least cared for members of your own species.

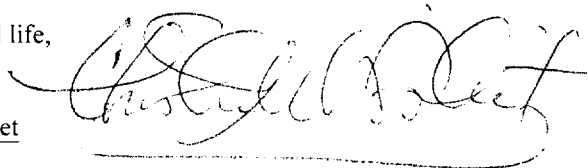
FDA was petitioned in April 1998 to ban forced molting. This petition should be granted without further delay. You have the power to educate the public and to finally take a stand for life in this country. You have the power to stop the horrid practices that take place on factory farms. Please use it to help the life in this society and on this planet for all our sakes.

As you well know, each year the US egg industry force molts -- intentionally starves for up to 14 days -- millions of hens to manipulate egg production. Forced molting is so stressful it destroys the hens' immune systems, predisposing the birds and their eggs to Salmonella poison. The US Dept of Agriculture's Food Safety & Inspection Service (FSIS) stated: "FSIS recognizes that public health concerns are raised by highly stressful forced molting practices. For example, extended starvation and water deprivation practices lead to increased shedding of Salmonella enteritidis (Se) by laying hens subjected to these practices."

Please, use your power and position for life this time.

For the respect of all life,

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96P-0418

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CROSS FILE SHEET

File Number: 98N-1230/ *C25*

See File Number: 97P-0197/ *C26*

96P 0418/ *C25*